AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace, without prejudice, all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) A method for producing a mature dendritic cell, which comprises the step of

(i) contacting a Sendai virus vector with an immature dendritic cell or

(ii) contacting a Sendai virus vector with a precursor cell of a dendritic cell ~~to cause~~ and differentiating the precursor cell ~~to differentiate~~ into an immature dendritic cell,

wherein said immature dendritic cell of (i) or (ii) undergoes maturation thereby producing a mature dendritic cell.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the contacting step involves contacting the Sendai virus vector with an immature dendritic cell.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the precursor cell is a $CD34^+$ cell or $CD11c^+$ cell.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein step (ii) comprises culturing the precursor cell in the presence of GM-CSF and IL-4 before or after the contacting step.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the vector comprises a cytokine gene.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the cytokine is interferon β.

8.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell is a human cell.

11. (Previously presented) An isolated vector-containing mature dendritic cell produced by the method of claim 2.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) A method for suppressing tumor growth, which comprises the step of delivering the dendritic cell of claim 11 to a tumor site.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of contacting a tumor antigen with the dendritic cell and/or expressing a tumor antigen in the dendritic cell.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the vector comprises a foreign gene.

16. (Previously presented) The mature dendritic cell of claim 11, wherein the vector comprises a foreign gene.

17. (Previously presented) The mature dendritic cell of claim 11, wherein the foreign gene encodes a cytokine or an antigen peptide.

18. (Previously presented) The mature dendritic cell of claim 17, wherein the

cytokine is interferon β.

19. (Previously presented) The mature dendritic cell of claim 11, wherein the cell is a human cell.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 2, which comprises the step of contacting a Sendai virus vector with a precursor cell of a dendritic cell and differentiating the cell into an immature dendritic cell, thereby the immature dendritic cell is spontaneously maturated.

21. (Previously presented) An isolated precursor of an immature dendritic cell comprising a Sendai virus vector.

22. (Previously presented) The cell of claim 21, wherein said cell is a $CD11c^+$ precursor cell of an immature dendritic cell.

23. (Previously presented) An isolated immature dendritic cell comprising a Sendai virus vector.

24. (Previously presented) An isolated mature dendritic cell comprising a Sendai virus vector.

25. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising causing spontaneous maturation of the immature dendritic cell of (i) or (ii) to matured dendritic cell without further stimulation for the maturation.

26. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the cell which is contacted with the Sendai virus vector is a $CD11c^+$ cell.

27. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the cell which is contacted with the Sendai virus vector is a $CD11c^+$ cell.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the cell is an immature dendritic cell.

29. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the cell is an immature dendritic cell.